- As on date, investigation is under progress in 7 cases and as estimated by vigilance, total estimated loss of revenue to the State exchequer is Rs.526.13 crore.
- The investigation is continuing and due action will be taken based on final findings. The State Level Enforcement Squad (SLES) which undertook intensive enforcement from 10th to 19th October, 09 conducted raids on different areas and during one such raid, the SLES members were attacked by illegal operators.
- Orissa Government has noticed that mafias are operating across the State borders of Orissa and Jharkhand states and in order to check illegal mining activities, matter has been taken up at senior level drawing attention to illegal inter-state mining operations and suggesting that a common platform should be set up so that team of officers from both the States can plan and work together.
- Between 10.11.2009 and 19.11.2009, the State Government has seized 4 vehicles, 19513 metric tonne of iron ore, 158 metric tonne of manganese ore valued at Rs.2.27 crore.

Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India has written a letter on 26.11.09 to Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, drawing his attention to the report of the State Government of Orissa which insisted upon joint inspection by the officers of both States.

Enquiry by Indian Bureau of Mines on mining scam

†1930. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Bureau of Mines has been entrusted with the work pertaining to studying and conducting a preliminary inquiry in recently unearthed mining scam in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Bureau has since given any initial findings;

(c) whether any further report is likely from the Bureau in this matter; and

(d) whether Government would made public the report given by the Bureau?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Central Government received representations on illegal mining by M/s. Ram Bahadur Thakur Limited (RBTL) in Keonjhar district of Orissa. The Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) carried out preliminary inspection of the complaint between 30.8.2009 to 1.9.2009 and found evidence of illegal mining of 1957 tonnes of iron ore and 56453 tonnes of manganese ore amounting to approximately Rs.23.39 crore. The report of IBM has been sent to State Government for taking appropriate action against the guilty.

(d) IBM report is not a confidential report.

Allocation of reserves of Chiria mines

1931. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of estimated 2 billion tonnes of reserves in Chiria mines, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been considered for allocation of 1 billion tonnes of iron ore reserves;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that State Government has proposed for allocation of balance 1 billion tonnes to private parties;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps Government has taken to earmark the balance area/block for allocation under the proposed Ultra Mega Steel Project?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) As per the information furnished by the Government of Jharkhand, the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has been accorded *in principle* approval for renewal of Budhaburu/Ledaburu (Ankua Reserve Forest) IISCO mining lease area over 832.62 hectares containing approximately 800 million tonnes of iron ore reserves. The State Government had earlier agreed to *in principle* renewal of mining lease for Kiriburu/Meghahatuburu mines over an area of 1936.06 hectares, 879.439 hectares and 82 hectares, which account for about 200 million tonnes of iron ore. As such, the State Government has agreed to renewal of mining leases, which would account for one billion tonnes of iron ore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No decision on this issue has been taken except as mentioned in reply to part (a) above, as the matter is *sub-judice* before the Supreme Court of India.

Illegal mining

1932. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of illegal mining has been increasing with the help of officials of mining departments of various States;

(b) if so, the details of the cases in which officials of State mining department were found involved in such illegal mining during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the State Governments have failed to check such illegal activities in their respective States;

(d) if so, whether the Central Government proposes to give more powers to the States to check such activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Some instances of illegal mining of minerals have come into the notice of the Government in various parts of the country. No data is centrally maintained on the number of officials of State mining department involved in such illegal mining. However, it has come to the notice of Central Government that State Government of Orissa had arrested six officials of State Government and one retired official of State Government for illegal mining in Keonjhar district of Orissa.

(c) Quarterly Return showing the number of cases detected by State Governments, vehicle seized, FIR lodged, court cases filed, fine realized are being sent by concerned State Governments and the details of cases of illegal mining of major/minor minerals detected by the State Governments in the year 2006 to June, 2009 is given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(d) and (e) Minerals are the property of the State Governments and Mineral rights vest with the State Government.